

# CALIFORNIA'S CROP PRODUCTION REPORT

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**Rice** - Production of California's 1999 *rice* crop is forecast at 43,736,000 cwt. Harvested acres for 1999 are forecast at 568,000 acres. The yield is forecast at 7,700 pounds per acre, up 13% from 1998. Harvest is expected to begin about two weeks later than normal.

**Cotton** - *Upland cotton* production in California is forecast at 1.45 million bales, up 27% from 1998, with harvested acreage of 585,000, 6% below last year. The yield is forecast to be 1,190 pounds per acre. The forecast for *American Pima* cotton production is 600,000 bales, up 70% from last year's crop. Harvested acreage is estimated at 259,000 with a yield of 1,112 pounds per acre. Despite the predominantly cool growing season, boll retention percentages have been excellent in most fields.

**Corn** - California's 1999 *corn* for grain production is forecast at 43.48 million bushels, up 5% from 1998. The forecast yield is 185 bushels per acre, up 16%. The first half of August brought continued cool temperatures to the San Joaquin and Sacramento valleys, which further delayed grain development. From mid-month on, readings reached more normal August levels, although progress was still behind normal by month's end.

**Navel Oranges** - The initial 1999-2000 California Navel orange forecast is 80.0 million cartons, up 90% over last season's freeze-damaged crop. Of this total, 75.0 million cartons are expected to be produced in the central valley. The forecast is based on 478 completed sample groves from the Navel Orange Objective Measurement Survey conducted in the central valley. Statewide, bearing acres totaled 130,000, up 2,000 from last year. After the devastating freeze in the San Joaquin Valley (90% of the State's Navel acreage) last December, the trees have bounced back with a good set, but small sized fruit.

**Walnuts** - The 1999 California *walnut* production is forecast at a record high 280,000 tons. This is up 23% from the 1998 crop of 227,000 tons. Bearing acreage is estimated at 193,000. The forecast is based on the objective measurement survey conducted in August. The survey indicated a State average nut set of 1,709, up 21% from 1998. The Hartley nut set was up 54%; the Serr, down 39%; the Franquette, up 86%; and the Chandler, up 18% from 1998. The crop is extremely clean this year, with percent of sound kernels in-shell, a record high, 97.9% statewide.

**Pistachios** - The 1999 California pistachio crop is estimated at 110 million pounds, 41% less than last year's production. Acreage is estimated at 68,000 acres and yield calculates to 1,620 pounds per acre. Clusters per tree and nuts per cluster are down 34% and 27% respectively from last year. Percentage of filled nuts is down 9%. However, the kernels themselves are the heaviest since 1995. At present the Pistachio crop appears to be running approximately two weeks behind schedule due to the cool weather.

**Others** - *sugar beet* production is forecast at 3,255,000 tons, up 15% from a year ago.